

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 15-24 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 15-20 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,435 B1; hereinafter “Wang”). Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Takeo *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,474; hereinafter “Takeo”). Applicant submits the following in traversal of the claim rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable because Wang fails to disclose:

the image output means further outputs types(s) and value(s) of one or more standard parameters concerning the suspected anomalous shadow in a visually recognizable manner together with the information including at least the information identifying the suspected anomalous shadow, wherein each of said one or more standard parameters is a parameter used for distinguishing the suspected anomalous shadow from a normal shadow, and the anomalous shadow detecting means detects the suspected anomalous shadow by judging whether a probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a malignant tumor is high.

Although the Examiner points out column 8, line 10 to column 9, line 7 and Figure 3 as corresponding to the above claim recitation, Applicant submits that Wang does not disclose judging whether a probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a malignant tumor is high.

In above sections of Wang cited by the Examiner, the reference discloses a relative probability threshold setting. For a particular relative probability threshold setting, there is a corresponding cancer detection rate. This cancer detection rate, however, does not disclose the claimed probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a

malignant tumor. Rather, the cancer detection rate merely discloses, at best, the probability that *any* one of a number of markers is cancerous. To take an example, an 85% cancer detection rate indicates that there is an 85% chance that a single cancerous marker is detected in a sample pool including 500 false markers that are not cancerous. While such a statistic may be of academic interest, such a statistic does not indicate the probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is a malignant tumor is high. In effect, the cancer detection rate provides no guidance in diagnosing the malignancy of a particular marker because the 85% statistic does not indicate that each marker has an 85% chance of being cancerous. Moreover, there is nothing in Wang which discloses that the corresponding cancer detection rate shown in Fig. 3 is output by the image output means.

Furthermore, Wang fails to disclose or suggest the image output means further outputting type(s) and value(s) of one or more standard parameters concerning the suspected anomalous shadow in a visually recognizable manner.

For at least the above reasons, Wang fails to disclose the claimed probability that a shadow detected according to the prescribed detection process is malignant tumor is high, and thus, claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 2-8 and 15-20, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1.

In addition, claim 20 is patentable because Wang fails to disclose an anomalous shadow detection system wherein said one or more standard parameters include at least one of calcification density, image density concentration of the suspected anomalous shadow, and an

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output value of an iris filter. For example, Wang fails to mention the use of any type of density values nor an iris filter as a standard parameter.

Claims 21-24, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1. The secondary references do not make up for the above deficiency of Wang.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

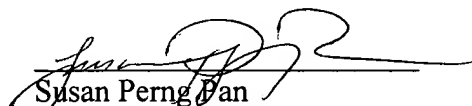
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